

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method of determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; ~~and~~  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object; and  
modifying the number of access objects in the access vector.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

3. (currently amended): ~~A method of determining access, the method comprising the steps of:~~ The method of claim 2,

~~receiving one or more requests to access a system; and~~  
~~for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object,~~  
~~wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object,~~  
and

wherein the step of determining further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of returning a result to the request.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

6. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of modifying the access vector to modify a number of access objects~~ wherein the step of modifying the number of access objects in the access vector is performed while the system is operating.

7. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

8. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein the number of access objects is decreased.

9. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

10. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

11. (currently amended): An apparatus for determining access, comprising:  
a computer;  
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or more requests to access a system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object; and  
means for modifying the number of access objects in the access vector.

12. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

13. (currently amended): ~~An apparatus for determining access, comprising:~~ The apparatus of claim 12,  
~~a computer; and~~

~~one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or more requests to access a system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object,~~

~~wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object, and~~

wherein the means for determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object further comprises ~~the means for evaluating whether~~ the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

14. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for returning a result to the request.

15. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

16. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, ~~further comprising means for modifying the access vector to modify a number of access objects~~ wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is modified while the system is operating.

17. (currently amended): The apparatus of ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

18. (currently amended): The apparatus of ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein the number of access objects is decreased.

19. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

20. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

21. (currently amended): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; ~~and~~  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object; and  
modifying the number of access objects in the access vector.

22. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

23. (currently amended): ~~An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:~~

The article of manufacture of claim 22,

~~receiving one or more requests to access a system; and~~

~~for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object,~~

~~wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object,~~

wherein the step of determining further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

24. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of returning a result to the request.

25. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

26. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of claim 21, ~~further comprising~~  
wherein the step of modifying the number of access objects in the access vector to modify a  
number of access objects is performed while the system is operating.

27. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of ~~claim 26~~ claim 21, wherein  
the number of access objects is increased.

28. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of ~~claim 26~~ claim 21, wherein  
the number of access objects is decreased.

29. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of  
modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

30. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of ~~claim 28~~ claim 21, further  
comprising the step of allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

31. (currently amended): A method of determining access, the method comprising:  
receiving one or more requests to access a system; ~~and~~

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector; and

manipulating the access vector to change the number of access indicators, thereby changing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the information used to determine the validity includes an access level identifier and the validity of the request is determined based upon comparing an access level associated with the request with the access level identifier.

34. (currently amended): ~~A method of determining access, the method comprising:~~  
The method of claim 32,

~~receiving one or more requests to access a system; and~~  
~~for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector;~~



~~wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access, and~~

wherein said access indicators include a resource characteristic and determining the validity of a request further includes comparing information contained in the access request with said resource characteristic.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the resource characteristic includes one of a resource identifier, resource type, copyright information, type of allowed use, type of allowed user, availability, size, and access level identifier.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to add an access indicator, thereby expanding the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to remove an access indicator, thereby reducing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

38. (currently amended): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; ~~and~~

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector; and

manipulating the access vector to change the number of access indicators, thereby changing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

39. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access.

40. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the information used to determine the validity includes an access level identifier and the validity of the request is determined based upon comparing an access level associated with the request with the access level identifier.

41. (currently amended): ~~An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:~~  
The article of manufacture of claim 39,

~~receiving one or more requests to access a system; and~~

~~for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector,~~

~~wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access, and~~

wherein said access indicators include a resource characteristic and determining the validity of a request further includes comparing information contained in the access request with said resource characteristic.

42. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein the resource characteristic includes one of a resource identifier, resource type, copyright information, type of allowed use, type of allowed user, availability, size, and access level identifier.

43. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to add an access indicator, thereby expanding the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

44. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to remove an access indicator, thereby reducing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object,  
wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

46. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:  
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for granting access to the  
system in response to identifying said available access object, wherein said available access  
object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

47. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 21, the method further  
comprising:  
granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object,  
wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object,  
wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

49. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, the method further  
comprising:

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granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object,  
wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

50. (canceled).

51. (canceled).

52. (canceled).

53. (canceled).

54. (canceled).

55. (canceled).